



4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Notice of Application for Approval of Discontinuance or

Modification of a Railroad Signal System

Docket Number FRA-2017-0021

Under part 235 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and 49 U.S.C. 20502(a), this document provides the public notice that on March 2, 2017, National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval for the discontinuance or modification of a signal system. FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA-2017-0021.

Applicant: National Railroad Passenger Corporation

Mr. Nicholas J. Croce III, PE

Deputy Chief Engineer C&S, Acting

2995 Market Street

Philadelphia, PA 19104

Amtrak seeks to remove the wayside signals on both Main Tracks No. 1 and No. 2 at automatic block points 1572 and 1607 on Amtrak's Northeast Corridor, New England Division, in Rhode Island. Signals 1572-1 and 1572-2 at block point 1572 will

fall within the limits of the future Liberty interlocking. These signals will be removed due to the installation of the new Liberty interlocking. The westbound distant signals to Kingston interlocking at block point 1607, signals 1607-1 and 1607-2 are not required in NORAC Rule 562 territory and cab signals without fixed automatic block signals will be removed from service. Block point 1607 will remain in service as a block point without wayside signals.

The existing automatic train control and Advanced Civil Speed Enforcement System (ACSES) designs will be modified to support the modifications to the block design with the addition of the new Liberty interlocking. ACSES will enforce a positive stop at each interlocking and a stop to a train with failed cab signal equipment unless the “C” signal is displayed allowing the failed train to enter the block.

The reason for removal of the signals is to eliminate maintenance and operation of unnecessary hardware no longer needed, and to reduce delays to trains caused by failures of the signals.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at www.regulations.gov and in person at the U.S. Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Docket Operations Facility, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, W12-140, Washington, DC 20590. The Docket Operations Facility is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested parties desire an opportunity for oral comment and a public hearing, they

should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number and may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- Web site: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- Fax: 202-493-2251.
- Mail: Docket Operations Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, W12-140, Washington, DC 20590.
- Hand Delivery: 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Communications received by [INSERT DATE 45 DAYS FROM PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE] will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered if practicable.

Anyone can search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the document, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). Under 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its processes. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to www.regulations.gov, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at <https://www.transportation.gov/privacy>. See also

<https://www.regulations.gov/privacyNotice> for the privacy notice of regulations.gov.

Issued in Washington, DC.

Robert C. Lauby,
Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety,
Chief Safety Officer.

[FR Doc. 2017-07018 Filed: 4/7/2017 8:45 am; Publication Date: 4/10/2017]